

CLAIMS

1. A system (100) for visually decrypting an encrypted image, the system comprising a display device (1) for displaying the encrypted image, the display device comprising:
- 5 a first polarizing element (11);
a first liquid crystal display (13); and
a second polarizing element (12);
arranged such that light incident on the first polarizing element (11) may pass
10 through the first liquid crystal display (13) and the second polarizing element (12),
the system further comprising a decryption device (2) for visually decrypting the encrypted image displayed on the display device (1), the decryption device (2) comprising:
- 15 a third polarizing element (21);
a second liquid crystal display (23); and
a fourth polarizing element (22);
arranged such that light received from the display device (1) and incident on the third polarizing element (21) may pass through the second liquid crystal
20 display (23) and the fourth polarizing element (22),
wherein the third polarizing element (21) comprises a switchable polarizer capable of switching between a first, polarizing state (I) and a second, non-polarizing state (II).
- 25 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the second polarizing element (12) comprises a switchable polarizer capable of switching between a first, polarizing state (I) and a second, non-polarizing state (II).
3. The system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the switching of the
30 switchable polarizing element(s) is carried out automatically.

4. The system according to claim 3, wherein sensors are provided in the display device (1) and/or the decryption device (2) for sensing the presence of the counterpart device and switching the switchable polarizing element (21) or elements (21, 12).

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5. A display device (1) for displaying an encrypted image, the display device comprising:

a first polarizing element (11);

a first liquid crystal display (13); and

10 a second polarizing element (12);

arranged such that light incident on the first polarizing element (11) may pass through the first liquid crystal display (13) and the second polarizing element (12),

wherein the second polarizing element (12) comprises a switchable
15 polarizer capable of switching between a first, polarizing state (I) and a second, non-polarizing state (II).

6. The display device according to claim 5, further comprising detection
20 means (15) for detecting the presence of the counterpart device and switching off the first polarizing element (12) in response thereto.

7. A decryption device (2) for visually decrypting an encrypted image displayed on a display device (1) emitting polarized light, the decryption device (2) comprising:

25 a third polarizing element (21);

a second liquid crystal display (23); and

a fourth polarizing element (22);

arranged such that light received from the display device (1) and incident on the third polarizing element (21) may pass through the second liquid crystal
30 display (23) and the fourth polarizing element (22),

wherein the third polarizing element (21) comprises a switchable polarizer capable of switching between a first, polarizing state (I) and a second, non-polarizing state (II).

5 8. The decryption device according to claim 7, further comprising detection means (25) for detecting the presence of a display device (1) and switching off the third polarizing element (21) in response thereto.

9. The decryption device according to claim 7 or 8, further comprising a
10 set of keys and/or a pseudo random generator.

10. A method of visually decrypting an encrypted image, the method comprising a first step of displaying the encrypted image on a display device (1) comprising:

15 a first polarizing element (11);
a first liquid crystal display (13); and
a second polarizing element (12);

arranged such that light incident on the first polarizing element (11) may pass through the first liquid crystal display (13) and the second polarizing element
20 (12),

the method comprising the further step of using a decryption device (2) comprising:

a third polarizing element (21);
a second liquid crystal display (23); and
25 a fourth polarizing element (22);

arranged such that light received from the display device (1) and incident on the third polarizing element (21) may pass through the second liquid crystal display (23) and the fourth polarizing element (22),

wherein the third polarizing element (21) comprises a switchable
30 polarizer capable of switching between a first, polarizing state (I) and a second, non-polarizing state (II).

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the second polarizing element (12) comprises a switchable polarizer capable of switching between a first, polarizing state (I) and a second, non-polarizing state (II).